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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Farmers Home Administration

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SQUARE UP THE FAMILY LIVING BUDGET

The cost of farm family living is continually going higher. This is partly due to higher prices; however, the greatest increase comes from planning the family budget to include goods and services that make for better living.

In general these demands are justifiable but somewhere in family living it will be necessary to make a cash saving in order to have these goods and services and use normal farm income to meet operating costs, capital goods expenditures and for debt payment.

The food farm families can produce for their own tables has traditionally been one of the advantages of living on a farm. Many studies show that the more of their own food farm families produce the better and less expensive their diets.

Home production of food takes time and labor, and the trend now is for the farm homemaker to lighten her work by buying more of the labor-saving food products on the market. A danger worth noting is that farm family diets may rate lower nutritionally even though the homemaker saves time and labor.

The home production of food should be given special consideration in order to keep farm diets up to par in such nutrients as vitamin A and C from fruits and vegetables, calcium from milk and proteins from milk, eggs and meat. In general if vegetables are not produced the family does not buy enough to provide an adequate amount.

In view of the money-saving phase as well as good nutrition, home production of food deserves special consideration by the family. If they use their own home produced food they will come much closer to getting 100% on the dollar. The farmer's share of the consumer's dollar spent for food in 1952 was 48 cents.

The above points should be given emphasis at the time of planning. We need to plan for a good standard of living. However, in order to do this, money management must be stressed.

An investment in efficient home equipment might be warranted if it would enable the family to increase the amount of their home produced and conserved food by a small amount each year.

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